

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry Monday will participate in a field hearing of the House Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee to review the effectiveness of federal nutrition programs. Fortenberry's focus will be the programs' impacts on individual health and wellness and the challenge of growing obesity rates. The hearing will be held in Colton, California, in the district of Subcommittee Chairman Joe Baca (D-CA).

"Obesity is a major risk factor that leads to the onset of chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, some cancers, and strokes, and chronic diseases are driving 75 percent of every health care dollar," Fortenberry said. "It is imperative that our public policies involving health care and nutrition promote and incentivize healthy practices and wellness.

"Our nation's foremost nutrition program enables persons in vulnerable circumstances to have access to a wide variety of nutrition selections. As we carefully allocate resources, an important topic of consideration should be the quality and health-promoting choices at the dinner table for families. This principle of healthy food combined with wise stewardship and personal responsibility should guide the goals of this program and other health-related policies."

In August, Fortenberry held a field hearing of the Nutrition Subcommittee in Lincoln. Its focus was "Addressing the 'Health' in Health Care: Nutrition, Prevention, and Wellness Practices." Fortenberry is ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee's Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee.

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